

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP;JLORENZ;JU

APPROVED BY SECRETARY

IO - SWLEWIS

S/S - O:LRMACFARLANE

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NEA - ALATHERTONJR

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239426

EXDIS FROM THE SECRETARY TO CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO HAVE PLO "FOREIGN MINISTER"
QADDOUMI SPEAK IN UN GENERAL DEBATE

1. GOVERNOR SCRANTON TELLS ME THAT THE EGYPTIAN MISSION
IN NEW YORK IS PRESSING HARD TO ARRANGE FOR QADDOUMI TO
SPEAK AT THE UN GENERAL DEBATE THAT IS NOW IN PROGRESS.
THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE WISHES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE, WHO IS ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE A 30-
YEAR PRECEDENT IN WHICH ONLY REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER
STATES PARTICIPATE IN GENERAL DEBATE. EGYPTIAN PERM REP
MEGUID SEEMS DETERMINED TO FORCE THE ISSUE -- PRESUMABLY
AS PART OF THE CONTINUING EGYPTIAN COMPETITION WITH SYRIA
FOR PLO FAVOR -- EVEN THOUGH AMERASINGHE TELLS US HE
INFORMED MEGUID HE WOULD RULE AGAINST SUCH A PROPOSAL.
USUN REPORTING ON THIS ISSUE IS BEING REPEATED TO YOU AS
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FURTHER BACKGROUND.

2. YOU SHOULD DELIVER THE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM ME
TO FAHMY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

"I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN MUCH INFORMAL
DISCUSSION IN NEW YORK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PLO
POLITICAL DIRECTOR QADDOUMI ADDRESSING THE UN IN GENERAL
DEBATE. SHOULD MR. QADDOUMI BE INVITED TO SPEAK DURING
GENERAL DEBATE, A USEFUL 30-YEAR PRECEDENT WOULD BE BROKEN.

AS YOU KNOW, THE FUNCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL DEBATE
IS NOT TO SETTLE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. IT IS THE
OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBER STATES TO EXPRESS THEIR GENERAL
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GLOBAL SITUATION. THIS IS THE BASIS
FOR THE UNBROKEN PRACTICE OF THE ASSEMBLY. TO DEPART FROM
IT RUNS THE RISK OF UNRAVELLING THIS PART OF THE ASSEMBLY,
WHICH WE WOULD CONSIDER MOST UNFORTUNATE.

DURING THE SECOND PHASE OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE QUESTION OF
PALESTINE WILL BE DEBATED BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING IN PLENARY SESSION. AT THIS TIME, MR. QADDOUMI
WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE
DEBATE, AS HE DID LAST YEAR. INDEED, THE SECOND STAGE OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE WAS DESIGNED TO INSURE THAT ALL
INTERESTED GROUPS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD IN
CONNECTION WITH ISSUES OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THEM.

THE ISSUE . . . IS ONE OF PRESERVING AN IMPORTANT
RULE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRACTICE, AND AS SUCH IS OF GREAT
CONCERN TO MY GOVERNMENT. IT IS OF CONCERN ALSO TO
GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE, WHO HAS TOLD
GOVERNOR SCRANTON THAT HE IS MUCH OPPOSED TO THE PARTICI-
PATION IN GENERAL DEBATE OF MR. QADDOUMI, OR ANYONE OTHER
THAN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF A MEMBER STATE. I WOULD BE
MOST GRATEFUL SHOULD YOU FIND IT POSSIBLE TO INSTRUCT
YOUR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UNITED NATIONS NOT
TO PRESS FOR MR. QADDOUMI'S PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL DEBATE.

. . . . WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS." KISSINGER

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